

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A buffer, comprising:

an engagement member,

a case body relatively movable with respect to the engagement member,

a slider provided in the case body so as to be slidable in a longitudinal direction of the case body but not to be rotatable;

a buffering member rotatably attached to the slider; and

an elastic means for moving the slider relative to the case body; wherein

the buffering member is formed to be independent of the slider, and

the buffering member is configured to be rotated through abutment with the engagement member, has an engagement stepped portion or a cam projecting portion for directly or indirectly pressing the case body or a member fixed to the case body, and moves is constructed and arranged to move along with movement of the engagement member or the case body while retaining the pressing state caused by the engagement stepped portion or the cam projecting portion so as to buffer relative movement of the engagement member and the case body.

2. (*Currently Amended*) The buffer according to claim 1, wherein the engagement stepped portion or the cam projecting portion is configured to be rotated through abutment with the engagement member and presses the case body or the member fixed to the case body indirectly via a pressing member.

3. (*Currently Amended*) The buffer according to claim 1, wherein the buffering member is configured to be rotated through abutment with the engagement member and presses a brake plate fixed to the case body.

4. Canceled.

5. (*Previously Presented*) The buffer according to claim 3, wherein a flat abutting surface to be brought into sliding contact with one side surface of the brake plate is formed on the slider.

6. (*Previously Presented*) The buffer according to claim 1, further comprising:
a rotary damper fixed to one end portion of the slider which is provided with the buffering member on the other end portion, a pinion gear fixed to a rotation axis of the rotary damper; and
a rack fixed to the case body; wherein
the pinion gear and the rack are meshed with each other.

7. - 10. Canceled.

11. (*Previously Presented*) The buffer according to claim 3, further comprising:
an adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of the brake plate in the width direction of the case body, wherein the adjustment mechanism has a plurality of projecting portions which are provided on first and second surfaces, respectively, of the brake plate, and

elongated bored grooves which are provided in a surface portion of the attachment recessed portion of the case body, with which the plurality of projecting portions which are provided on the second surface is slidably engaged.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The buffer according to claim 3, further comprising:
~~the an~~ adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of the brake plate in the width direction of the case body, wherein the adjustment mechanism has a first bevel gear attached to the case body; and
a second bevel gear which is rotatably meshed with the bevel-gear surface of the first bevel gear.

13. (*Currently Amended*) The buffer according to claim 3, further comprising:
~~the an~~ adjustment mechanism for adjusting the position of the brake plate in the width direction; wherein
the adjustment mechanism has a screw hole on one widthwise side surface of the brake plate, and
the base end side of the screw is rotatably screwed in the screw hole.